

We claim:

1. A computer-implemented method comprising:
receiving a text;
generating a priority of the text based on a text classifier; and,
5 outputting the priority.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein receiving a text comprises receiving an email.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein generating a priority comprises generating the
priority based on a text classifier comprising a Bayesian classifier.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein generating a priority comprises generating the
10 priority based on a text classifier comprising a support-vector machine classifier.
5. The method of claim 1, further initially comprising training the text classifier.
6. The method of claim 5, wherein training the text classifier comprises seeding the
text classifier to discriminate features of a text that are considered important.
7. The method of claim 1, wherein generating a priority comprises generating a
15 priority as a likelihood the text is of high priority.
8. The method of claim 1, wherein outputting the priority comprises alerting the user
based on the priority.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein outputting the priority comprises:
determining an expected loss of non-review of the text at a current time;
determining an expected cost of alerting the user of the text at the current time;
and,
5 alerting the user of the text upon determining that the expected loss is greater than
the expected cost.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein determining an expected loss of non-review of
the text at a current time considers the expected loss of non-review of the text at a future
time when the user would otherwise review the message.

10 11. The method of claim 9, wherein determining an expected loss comprises initially
determining a current expected rate of lost opportunity as a function of present time.

12. The method of claim 9, wherein determining an expected cost comprises
determining a probability inference as to a likelihood of the user being present.

13. The method of claim 1, further comprising continually training the text classifier.

15 14. A computer-implemented method comprising:
training a text classifier comprising one of a Bayesian classifier and a support-
vector machine classifier;
receiving a text;

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generating a priority of the text based on the text classifier; and,
outputting the priority.

15. The method of claim 14, further comprising continually training the text classifier.

5 16. The method of claim 14, wherein training the text classifier comprises seeding the text classifier to discriminate features of a text that are considered important.

17. The method of claim 14, wherein generating a priority comprises generating a priority as a likelihood the text is of high priority.

10 18. The method of claim 14, wherein outputting the priority comprises:
determining an expected loss of non-review of the text at a current time;
determining an expected cost of alerting the user of the text at the current time;
and,
alerting the user of the text upon determining that the expected loss is greater than the expected cost.

15 19. The method of claim 18, wherein determining an expected loss of non-review of the text at a current time considers the expected loss of non-review of the text at a future time when the user would otherwise review the message.

20. The method of claim 18, wherein determining an expected loss comprises initially determining a current expected rate of lost opportunity as a function of present time.

21. The method of claim 18, wherein determining an expected cost comprises determining a probability inference as to a likelihood of the user being present.

5 22. A machine-readable medium having instructions stored thereon for execution by a processor to perform a method comprising:

receiving a text;

generating a priority of the text based on a text classifier; and,

outputting the priority.

10 23. The medium of claim 18, wherein receiving a text comprises receiving an email.

24. The medium of claim 18, wherein generating a priority comprises generating the priority based on a text classifier comprising one of a Bayesian classifier and a support-vector machine classifier.

15 25. The medium of claim 18, further initially comprising training the text classifier by seeding the text classifier to discriminate features of a text that are considered important.

26. The medium of claim 18, wherein outputting the priority comprises:
determining an expected loss of non-review of the text at a current time;
determining an expected cost of alerting the user of the text at the current time;

and,

alerting the user of the text upon determining that the expected loss is greater than the expected cost.

27. The medium of claim 26, wherein determining an expected loss of non-review of the text at a current time considers the expected loss of non-review of the text at a future time when the user would otherwise review the message.

28. The medium of claim 26, wherein determining an expected loss comprises initially determining a current expected rate of lost opportunity as a function of present time.

29. The medium of claim 26, wherein determining an expected cost comprises determining a probability inference as to a likelihood of the user being present.

30. A computerized system comprising:
a program to generate a text; and,
a text classifier to generate a priority of the text.

31. The system of claim 30, wherein the program comprises an electronic mail program to receive an electronic mail as the text.

32. The system of claim 30, wherein the text classifier comprises a Bayesian text classifier.

33. The system of claim 30, wherein the text classifier comprises a support-vector-machine classifier.

34. The system of claim 30, wherein the priority comprises a likelihood the text is of high priority.

5 35. The system of claim 30, wherein at least one of the program and the text classifier comprise a computer program executed by a processor from a computer-readable medium.

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